THE

# Collectors Companion.

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## POSTAGE STAMPS OF ICELAND

The mysteries of Australia having been solved, and the attractions of the West Indies having satisfied the philatelic hunger of even the longest purses, we may expect the attention of specialists to be directed very soon upon the countries of Europe. Already there are signs of this in regard to Great Britain, Norway, Switzerland, and Spain, but there are large fields of enterprise still open in the stamps of Roumania, Turkey, Greece, and others, which will require a lot of working out. And then there are the smaller states, such as the one of which I propose to make a few notes, which will also have their turn.

Iceland has probably not taken the fancy of collectors very much by reason of its very simplicity. It has not sinned enough to be interesting, nor multiplied varieties with the rapidity of many equally small states which require the formation of a special society for their correction.

The philatelic history of Iceland ought to be looked upon by such a society as a happy one, but by many collectors it will be pronounced as domestically tame. Still even in a well ordered household there are to be found certain ups and downs which disturb the peace, and the study of Icelands philatelic household will show sufficient variety to make it interesting.

It was not untill 1873 that this dependency of Denmark with its population of 70,000, began to issue postage stamps, and that issue might have continued to this day but for the fact that three years later the currency of the country was changed from SKILLING to AUR.

The only full account that I have come across, giving the varieties of Iceland stamps, was written by Major Evans for Messrs. Pemberton & Wilson and published in their catalogue of 1882. There the writer gives a list of the stamps with their different perforations showing which were perforated 12½ and which 13½, while in two or three cases stamps were issued with both perforations. In Moens' latest catalogue and in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' THE PHILATELIC HANDBOOK, also by Major Evans, the two perforations are given, but no attempt is made to discover to which stamps they were applied.

Moens gives the date of the first issue as 1st January 1873, and it included the 2sk. blue, 4sk. carmine, 8sk. brown, and 16sk. yellow. The 3sk. gray was not issued until the March following. The watermark in all Iceland stamps is the Danish crown.

From careful measurement of a considerable number of stamps, I find that the 2sk. measures 13½ vertically and 14 horizontally. This agrees witn Senf in his catalogue. who heads the list with the figures 14x13½ but makes no mention of a 12½ perforation.

The 3sk. I have only found perf. 12½, but Major Evans gives it perf. 13½ as well.

The 4sk. exists in both perforations. but the 12½ is very much the scarcer of the two.

The 8sk. I have only found 13½ x 14.

The 16sk. is found in both, but the small perforation is much rarer than the other.

Of the two official stamps the 4sk. green is perforated in both gauges but of the smaller perforation I have seen only one specimen.

The 8sk. lilac I find perforated only 13½ x 14. —From THE PHILATELIC WORLD.

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The Post Office Dep't. has disposed of the 50,000 sets of newspaper and periodical st'ps which were sold to collectors at $5 a set.

When first placed on sale, Feb. 15 it was doubted if purchasers could be found. It is now regretted by officials that more sets were not placed on sale, but it was stated that the number would be limited to 50,000 and Uncle Sam will keep his word.

# The Collectors Companion.

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## THE STAMPS OF CHILE!

BY B. J. BISHOP.

Chili is pre-eminently a country for the beginner-specialist. By this term I mean a collector who has 1,500 to 2,000 varieties in his album. At this stage it is well to begin to specialize in some of the countries easily completed, and Chile is the first one of this grade which appears in our albums.

The first stamps were issued in 1853 and were of two values, the 5c and the 10c. These two stamps were unperforated and watermarked a "small double lined numeral." They were followed in the same year by other values and colors of the same design. The entire set of this design catalogues at $10.85 unused and $7.28 used.

The next issue was of a similar design, perforated and unwatermarked. They catalogue at only 99c unused and 25c used.

I might follow in detail the other five postal series, but they are all of the general design and rouletted. The stamps of these five issues taken collectively are listed at $3.41 unused and $1.21 used; or the total catalogue of the adhesive postage stamps is $15.25 unused and $8.74 used. Considering this very low aggregate, it is a comparatively easy matter to complete the sets.

The revenues used for postage are to be added to a collection with due caution; for as we all know, it is a very easy matter to adorn a stamp with a supply of printer's ink.

The telegraph stamps have become a genuine nuisance. These three stamps, used for postage, are valued at $1.25. On the other hand, if they were used for their original purpose, they are worth about ten cents per set. A certain Chilian firm offered 100 sets for $1.50 lately. Now they are usually cancelled with a pen mark or a mere splotch of ink, no matter in what way they were used. Consequently the tyro has a great deal of trouble with them. If a dealer or collector offers something for "every stamp catalogued at 25c or over," he is sure to be flooded with Chilian telegraph stamps. And the victim cannot "kick," for in most cases he does not know but what the stamps were used postally. Yet if he ventures to put them on sheets at $1.25 per set what a scoring he gets, and mostly by persons who themselves don't know how the stamps were used.

Last year another adhesive was issued which is used in the same way as our registration receipt cards. It is called the "Re-

turn Registration Receipt Stamp," and may be purchased used or unused for a few cents

The envelopes are hardly the thing for the beginner-specialist to collect, as the different papers may present some difficulty. However, they may be bought from a dealer, already priced and listed, which does away with the difficulty.

There were also issued two officially sealed stamps in 1885 and 1893. The pair is listed at $2.75 unused and may be collected or not as the philatelist chooses. —MICH. PHIL.

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Pink gum was used on the first issue of Hanover-

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The largest perforation known is the "Susse" perforation of France 1753-60. The smallest is on the 1864-70 Tasmania. Neither perforation is official, both having been done privately.

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